Date: Wed, 22 Jun 94 04:30:11 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V94 #691
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Wed, 22 Jun 94 Volume 94 : Issue 691

Today's Topics:
"Renewal" reusable alkaline batteries
Lead Acid Storage Batteries
Railroad track as an antenna?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 21 Jun 94 17:12:33 EDT
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!swrinde!emory!dragon!hayes!bcoleman@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: "Renewal" reusable alkaline batteries
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <2tppfe$rvn@search01.news.aol.com>, dgoodman@aol.com (DGoodman) writes:
>
> getting very good life out of the cells. What I like best about them
> is that they don't have nicad-like memories to worry about.

Modern nicads don't have "memory." You can't induce a memory without hundreds
of equal-length cycles, anyway.

Nicad memory is largely a thing of myth. I've seen more nicad abuse in
persuit of avoiding "memory" than anything.

> If I'm
> unsure about how much charge is left in a set before heading out, I
> simply pop in a fully charged set (they don't drain unused, like
> nicads), put the questionable ones in the charger, and exit.

Nicads have a pretty long self-discharge rate. Lead acid cells, on the other hand.... And I don't see why you couldn't pop a set of fully charged nicads in like you do the renewals.

> In any case, I'm very pleased with the system, especially being free
> of nicad auto discharging and memory worries.

Your worries are largely unfounded.

For what it is worth, two of my friends have Newton 110s and use Renewal batteries in them. Ordinary Nicads won't do, because the terminal voltage isn't enough. The Newton battery back (with 5 nicad cells) is expensive, as is the charger.

They seem to get reasonable life out of the Renewals.

--
Bill Coleman, AA4LR ! Internet: bcoleman@hayes.com
Principal Software Engineer ! AppleLink: D1958
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POB 105203 Atlanta, GA 30348 USA !
Disclaimer: "My employer doesn't pay me to have opinions."
Quote: "The same light shines on vineyards that makes deserts." -Steve Hackett.

Date: Wed, 22 Jun 1994 06:09:35 GMT
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!swrinde!emory!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Lead Acid Storage Batteries
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <Pine.3.88.9406212222.A8410-0100000@julian.uwo.ca> "l.h. bol" <lbol@julian.uwo.ca> writes:
>I have aquired some sealed lead acid cells (plastic pack containing 6
>cells rated for 5AH) and am trying to figure out the proper charge
>current for them. I don't want to over-charge them (or under charge)
>
>From what I can recall, the charge rate (I) is relative to the AH rating
>of the cell(s) ??? Do you charge them with a voltage higher than the
>voltage of the cell(s) ? I seem to have to do this to get them to draw
>any current when I try to charge them.
>
>Can anyone steer me to the proper proceedures or charger design theory.
>
>Yes, I suppose I could buy a cheap automotive type charger but I've got
>all kinds of transformers and diodes etc. kicking around and would like
>to try and use them up.

Lead acid batteries are normally charged with a constant voltage
charger. For a nominal 12 volt battery, charger voltage should be
14.5 volts during charge, and 13.8 volts during sustain. Auto chargers
use a saturable core transformer to limit initial charging current,
cheap and effective. You'll have to install a current limiter when
using ordinary transformers. Current should be limited to 0.1 C
for gell cells, 0.33 C for wet cells, where C is the amp-hour rating.
An auto tail light bulb will do as a current limiter for your gell
cell. Just put it in series between the 14.5 volt source and the
battery. It's resistance is non-linear depending on current draw,
so it'll allow near full voltage at low current, and drop the
voltage as current draw increases, forming a self-regulating
system. Crude, but effective.

Gary
--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV | You make it, | gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems | we break it. | uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way | Guaranteed! | emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244 | |

Date: Wed, 22 Jun 1994 06:51:31 GMT
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!sdd.hp.com!apollo.hp.com!hpwin055.uksr!hpqmoea!
dstock@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Railroad track as an antenna?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Lou Williams (nsyslaw@straylight.acs.ncsu.edu) wrote:

: When I first saw this subject, my first thought was HO scale model
: railroad track.

: Now I'm wondering what the impedance of Nickel Silver, HO gauge track
: is... Looks awfully close to ladder line. (about 1.25 inch seperation
: between conductors, now what about that nickel-silver stuff...?)

: Methinks I see a new J-Pole experiment in the future...

OK, well, someone'll accuse me of having an over fertile imagination,
but can't you just see a beam made of folded dipoles where the folds
just happen to be remotely controlled, movable. A controlled 12v feed
to the elements and a RF bypass capacitor across the locoXXXXshorting
bars.

Turntables as RF switches ! or rotators.

Pity nickel alloys tend to be a bit resistive....

Cheers
David GM4ZNX

Date: Wed, 22 Jun 1994 08:25:39 GMT
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!swrinde!howland.reston.ans.net!torn!nott!cunews!freenet.carleton.ca!FreeNet.Carleton.CA!as041@network.ucsd.edu
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <CrK1Fn.658@wang.com>, <2tsvr5$mjm@chnews.intel.com>, <Crr4E0.JMJ@wang.com>eeNet.Ca
Reply-To : as041@FreeNet.Carleton.CA (Robin Ludlow)
Subject : Re: "73's"

In a previous article, jeffrey@kahuna.tmc.edu (Jeffrey Herman) says:

>Cec: I've got the 1950 edition - don't you just love those ads in the
>back? Over 100 pages of boatanchor goodies: Hallicrafters, Allied,
>National, Vibroplex, Johnson, Collins ...
>
Jeffrey....while this has thankfully strayed somewhat from the original thread on 73(s), I must say I have a much-valued 1943 Handbook (eight years prior to my birth) and I find the ads fascinating..they are works of art in themselves...National condensers and radios, a Hallicrafters receiver WITH A SCOPE!, McElroy tape pullers, huge Eimac tubes, Millen components, Sprague condensers, United transformers, Mallory components, the Hammarlund HQ-120-X and Super-Pro were hot receivers then, Shure, Astatic and Electrovoice mikes, Burgess batteries, B&W, RME, Centralabs, Ohmite, Raytheon..it goes on...

To me, it is a real slice of amateur radio history and I would not part with it for anything!
--
Robin Ludlow, VE3YE
Orleans, Ontario, Canada
as041@freenet.carleton.ca

End of Info-Hams Digest V94 #691

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